



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

***Amendment***

LCO No. 5358

\*HB0517605358HD0\*

Offered by:

REP. HAMM, 34<sup>th</sup> Dist.

REP. O'ROURKE, 32<sup>nd</sup> Dist.

REP. SERRA, 33<sup>rd</sup> Dist.

REP. RACZKA, 100<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. CIOTTO, 9<sup>th</sup> Dist.

SEN. GAFFEY, 13<sup>th</sup> Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5176

File No. 260

Cal. No. 158

***"AN ACT CONCERNING YOUTH IN CRISIS."***

1 After line 215, add the following:

2 "Sec. 5. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2002*) The Department of  
3 Children and Families shall immediately provide alternatives to  
4 placement at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School by developing  
5 community-based treatment services and programs that will be  
6 available to children who are members of families with service needs  
7 and will meet the needs of such children, including programs with  
8 respect to truancy, and treatment services and programs for children in  
9 the juvenile justice system with serious mental health, substance abuse  
10 or other specialized needs. Such services and programs shall provide  
11 mental health interventions, including multi-systemic therapy,  
12 functional family therapy, treatment foster care and group homes.  
13 Such services and programs shall qualify for use through HUSKY  
14 contracts or for federal financial participation through Title IV-E of the

15 federal Social Security Act, as amended, or Early Periodic Screening  
16 and Diagnostic Treatment Medicaid funds.

17 Sec. 6. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) The Commissioner of  
18 Children and Families shall continue to provide a mandatory training  
19 program on the use of physical restraints for all staff members  
20 employed at the Connecticut Juvenile Training School on the effective  
21 date of this section and all staff members hired after the effective date  
22 of this section. Such training shall emphasize verbal defusing or de-  
23 escalation techniques, or both, prevention strategies and credentialed  
24 debriefing strategies for both the child and the staff members after a  
25 physical restraint has been used. Such training shall be completed for  
26 staff members employed on the effective date of this section not later  
27 than January 1, 2003, and for staff members hired on or after the  
28 effective date of this section not later than three months after the date  
29 of hire, except that staff members employed on the effective date of  
30 this section who have received training prior to said date shall not be  
31 required to be retrained.

32 (b) In order to reduce the use of physical restraints at the  
33 Connecticut Juvenile Training School, the commissioner shall establish  
34 a crisis response team, the members of which shall include clinical  
35 staff. The team shall review every use of a physical restraint to  
36 determine if such use is in accordance with chapter 814e of the general  
37 statutes and regulations adopted by the commissioner pursuant to  
38 subsection (d) of section 17a-16 of the general statutes. The team shall  
39 provide an assessment of a child and staff action before and after each  
40 use of a physical restraint.

41 Sec. 7. (*Effective from passage*) (a) From July 1, 2002, to July 1, 2003,  
42 the Department of Children and Families shall continue to allow the  
43 quality improvement specialist selected by the Office of the Child  
44 Advocate, and reporting directly to the Child Advocate, to monitor the  
45 implementation of treatment services and programs at the Connecticut  
46 Juvenile Training School. The quality improvement specialist shall  
47 have unlimited access to the grounds and all the records of the

48 Connecticut Juvenile Training School for the purpose of assisting the  
49 Department of Children and Families to improve the quality of the  
50 services and programs at the school. The department and the Office of  
51 the Child Advocate shall enter into a memorandum of understanding  
52 that shall specify the responsibilities and functions of the quality  
53 improvement specialist.

54 (b) The quality improvement specialist shall, in the performance of  
55 such specialist's responsibilities as the agent of the Child Advocate,  
56 have the same authority and power as granted to the Child Advocate  
57 pursuant to section 46a-13l of the general statutes, and shall have the  
58 same access to information, including the power to issue subpoenas,  
59 and responsibility for maintaining the confidentiality of information as  
60 the Child Advocate has pursuant to sections 46a-13m and 46a-13n of  
61 the general statutes."